

H. R. 3018.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FEBRUARY 13, 1871.

Read twice, referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BETHUNE, on leave, introduced the following bill:

A BILL

To provide for the payment of debts and claims due persons who resided in the insurrectionary States, or who reside there now or elsewhere, and for other purposes therein specified.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That it shall and may hereafter be lawful for all persons who
4 resided in the insurrectionary States, or who now reside there,
5 or elsewhere, who held debts or claims against the Govern-
6 ment of the United States at the commencement of the late
7 rebellion, or during said rebellion, or since, to present and de-
8 mand payment of the same. And the several courts, depart-
9 ments of the Government, and officers of the Government
10 shall receive, hear, and determine upon all debts and claims
11 under the same rules, laws, and regulations as are now pro-
12 vided by law for the citizens of the United States; and no

13 residence heretofore or hereafter of any person in said States
14 lately in rebellion, or participation in the same, or aiding in
15 the said rebellion, shall hereafter deprive any citizen of the
16 United States of the right to receive or recover of and from
17 the Government his debt or claim, or subject him to any law,
18 rule, or regulation in adjusting and recovering the same, which
19 is not now provided by law for other citizens of the United
20 States, either before the courts, the various departments of the
21 Government, or any officer of the same: *Provided*, That
22 such court, department of the Government, or officer may
23 allow any person, for and in behalf of the Government of the
24 United States, to file a caveat thereto, under oath or affirma-
25 tion, upon the grounds that the judicial tribunal of the State
26 which has original criminal jurisdiction to hear and punish
27 crimes in the town, county, parish, district, or circuit in which
28 such creditor or claimant may reside, have failed, since the
29 passage of this act, to punish in a manner prescribed by the
30 laws of said State, any person or persons who have violently
31 abused and outraged the loyal people of the same, or other
32 loyal persons while within the limits of the same, or that
33 said State has failed to enact necessary laws for the punish-
34 ment of such offenses; and if upon investigation the facts al-
35 lowed as a ground of caveat are found to be true, then the
36 said claimant shall not be allowed the benefits of this act.